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Drugging of Nixon aides hinted

WASHINGTON [AP]—The former science chief of the CIA told a Senate panel Wednesday he was asked to determine whether any members of President Nixon's traveling party were drugged during a trip to an "unfriendly" foreign country sometime in 1971.

Dr. Sidney Gottlieb, who left the Central Intelligence Agency in 1973, said the President definitely was not drugged but that other members of his party, including his personal physician, Dr. Walter Tkash, exhibited peculiar symptoms, including outbursts of crying at inappropriate moments.

Describing the symptoms, Gottlieb said, "My best recollection was that it was disoriented and unusual in terms of the person's normal behavior."

"Inappropriate tears and crying, I remember, as part of the manifested behavior," Gottlieb told a Senate health subcommittee.

Gottlieb did not name the foreign country involved nor did he identify the drug suspected of causing the unusual

symptoms.

ACCORDING TO RECORDS of the White House transportation office, however, Nixon did not travel in 1971 to any countries that were considered unfriendly.

He went to the Azores to meet with the French President Georges Pompidou and to Bermuda for a meeting with the British prime minister.

Otherwise, the records show that Nixon left the continental United States only for brief weekend trips to friend Robert Abplanalp's home in the Bahamas and to the Virgin Islands for a weekend stay.

Gottlieb refused to answer questions as he left the hearing, saying, "I'm not going to talk about anything to anybody now."

He also did not identify those persons who, he said, asked the CIA to check out the possible use of drugs but he said they "wanted us to help determine and review if that might have happened."

Gottlieb made the disclosure as an addition to written testimony which centers around the CIA's own drug experimentation program over a 21-year period starting in the early 1950s.

GOTTLIEB SAID the CIA's counterintelligence division keeps a running account of incidents involving the use of drugs against Americans and others by foreign agents.

"These are well documented instances of this country's potential enemies specifically using covert drug administration against Americans and others," Gottlieb said. He said such attacks were continuing up to the time he left the CIA in 1973.

He said he has no information that LSD or other mind-altering drugs were used, but said that incapacitating drugs were administered "so that documents can be stolen."

He said there are at least 20 documented instances in which diplomatic and military attaches of the United States and other countries "have had this sort of thing happen to them."

GOTTLIEB ALSO SAID it is his understanding that, in most cases, foreign intelligence agents used drugs to steal documents from American officials. He did not say this was the case in the alleged drugging of members of the Nixon traveling party. He gave no reason for that alleged occurrence.

Gottlieb was in general charge of the CIA's testing of mind-altering drugs in the 21-year period beginning in about 1952.

Earlier, CIA Director Stansfield Turner told the panel the surviving records of the agency's drug tests are so fragmented and confused it still is not possible to say the entire story has been told.

"There is no way I can look you in the eye today and say more material won't turn up this afternoon," Turner told Sen. Edward M. Kennedy (D., Mass.), chairman of the subcommittee.

"WE ARE NOT professing to tell you the complete story," said Turner. "We are attempting to tell you the story that we know."

Turner assured Kennedy the CIA has now turned over all the material it can find on the formerly top-secret drug-related projects that bore the code names MK-DELTA, MK-ULTRA, MK-NAOMI, MK-SEARCH, MK-CHICKWIT, and MK-OFTEN.